

WEEKLY BULLETIN

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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WILTON L. HALVERSON, M.D., Director



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GUY P. JONES
Editor

PENDING PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION

Among the bills now being considered by the 1943 Legislature and which may be of interest to health officers are the following:

Crippled Children. There are two bills, S.B. 451 (Burns) and A.B. 665 (Potter), which are identical and provide for extending the age limit for the application of the law to bring relief to physically handicapped children from 18 to 21 years. The bill also enables the State to use funds from Federal or other sources. Two other identical bills, S.B. 868 (Burns) and A.B. 1557 (Potter) provide for an appropriation of \$100,000 to be used for the relief of physically handicapped children.

School of Public Health. A.B. 515 (Carlson and Carey) provides for the establishment of a School of Public Health in the University of California. The bill calls for an apportionment of \$87,000 for launching this project.

Tuberculosis Subsidy. A.B. 1268 (Desmond) provides for increasing the State subsidy to institutions that maintain required standards from \$3 to \$7 per week.

School Health Work. S.B. 374 (Salsman) provides for contracts between any city and the governing board of any school district located wholly or partially within such city, for the performance by health officers or other employees of the health department of any city of any or all of the functions and duties set forth in Chapter 4 of Part 1 of Division 1 of the School Code, relating to health supervision of school buildings and pupils. In such contracts the consideration shall be such as may be agreed upon by the

governing board and the city and shall be paid to the city by the governing board at such times as shall be specified in the contract.

Child Care. There are many bills pertaining to child care centers and nursery schools. Among those pertaining to child care centers which may be of interest to health officers are: A.B. 307 (Sawallisch, et al.), A.B. 1256 (Dilworth), A.B. 1563 (McMillan) and A.B. 1733 (Hawkins and McMillan). Senator Mixter and other Senators have introduced S.B. 601 pertaining to child care and home finding. Assemblyman Dunn has introduced A.B. 1547 pertaining to child care nursery schools. A study of child growth is provided for in A.B. 1075 (Evans), and A.B. 1885 (Rosenthal) provides for the establishment of a Commission on Child Legislation.

County Hospital Care. A.B. 1618 (Howser) amends Section 202 of the Welfare and Institutions Code to provide that whenever a county gives care to an indigent of another county, the county of residence shall be responsible for charges involved. Such care includes medical, surgical X-ray, laboratory, nursing, or general hospital service, or all of them.

Communicable Disease Care. A.B. 916 (J. B. Knight) amends a section to the Welfare and Institutions Code which enables counties to secure pay from persons who are financially able to pay for care of cases of communicable diseases.

Hard of Hearing Children. A.B. 257 (Gannon, et al.) and A.B. 1717 (Robertson) provide for the employment of skilled services in the State Department of Public Health for the detection of hearing

impairments in children. Such services shall be rendered in conferences and diagnostic clinics through the employment of expert diagnosticians and medical consultants. A.B. 1222 (Gannon) provides for consultant services in connection with the education of hard of hearing children in areas where such services are not available. A.B. 91 (Thomas) provides for the establishment of a residential school for hard of hearing children of school age which shall be part of the State School for the Deaf and provides an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the construction and establishment of such a school.

Food and Drug. Among the bills pertaining to foods and drugs that may be of interest to health officers are A.B. 970 (Hawkins) pertaining to adulteration of drugs; A.B. 667 (Potter) which amends the Pure Drug Law; A.B. 1928 (Call), which enables chiropodists to prescribe certain drugs as now permitted physicians, dentists and veterinarians.

A.B. 1824 (Lyon) amends those sections of the Code pertaining to pure foods. A.B. 666 (Potter) regulates cold storage, and A.B. 1553 (Call) amends the Food Sanitation Act, adding a new section to require every person other than agricultural employees engaged in the serving of food to others, handling open containers, and every domestic servant to obtain a certificate from a licensed physician and surgeon that he is free from communicable diseases. A new certificate must be obtained every three months, and the State Board of Public Health would be required to issue certificate forms and establish, by regulation, the scope of the examination to be given by the examining physician and surgeon. The cost of the examination and certificate would be borne by the employer.

S.B. 960 (Jespersion) makes it illegal to destroy any edible farm commodities, unless in a condition unfit for human consumption.

Premarital and Prenatal Tests. A.B. 1830 and A.B. 1841, both of which are introduced by Assembly Gannon and Clayton A. Dills, enable chiropractors to perform both prenatal and premarital laboratory tests.

Horse Meat. S.B. 698 (Burns and Powers) and A.B. 481 (Armstrong) pertain to the regulation of the sale of horse meat. The Senate bill would prohibit the sale of horse meat in public markets where other meat or meat food products are sold. The display of a sign in letters not less than one foot high and two inches wide, stating that horse meat for human consumption was on sale would be required. No horse meat could be ground or cut into segments smaller than one inch square unless ground or cut

in the presence of the purchaser and with his knowledge. Restaurants and other eating places offering or serving horse meat for human consumption must have stamped on all menus in green ink in letters not less than one-half inch in height and one-quarter inch in width, the words "Horse meat served here."

Mosquito Abatement Districts. S.B. 522 (Dorsey) eliminates mosquito abatement districts from the requirements of the District Investigation Act, which simplifies the financing of the work in the districts. A.B. 999 (Werdel) makes similar provisions, thus enabling such districts to operate without the handicap of limited budgets and excessive supervision.

Director of Public Health. A.B. 686 (Lyon) and A.B. 803 (Wollenberg and T. Fenton Knight) would place the Director of Public Health within the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Law and would require that his salary shall be fixed by the State Board of Public Health in accordance with applicable laws. The second bill provides that members of the State Board of Public Health other than the Director, shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor.

WAR INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

Among the activities in industrial hygiene with particular reference to the war effort carried on during the month of January were field studies of a dermatitis hazard in a shell loading plant, dust and fumes in armor plate fabrication plant, carbon monoxide and aldehyde exposures in a gypsum mine, and a health study in a shipyard. In this large shipyard studies were started to evaluate the potential health hazards in existence, including exposure to fumes and gases during welding operations; to lead during burning operations on surfaces that have been coated with lead-containing paints; to lead and solvent materials during spray painting of red lead; to organic solvent vapors from the application of paints, varnishes and lacquers; to asbestos dust in the application of insulating material to steam pipes; to carbon monoxide at various gas-fired heating furnaces and coal-fired forges; and to combustible gases and vapors in various locations throughout the yard.

REPORTS ON BLOOD TESTS

During January, 61,041 blood tests were performed in the State laboratory for Selective Service. Of these, 2,421, or 3.9 per cent, were positive. Blood tests performed in the laboratory totaled 88,498. During January, 15,367 premarital blood tests were performed, of which 317, or 2.1 per cent, were positive. Out of 15,947 prenatal tests, 290, or 1.8 per cent, were positive.

EPIDEMIC MENINGITIS REPORTED

There were 108 cases of meningococcic meningitis reported in January of this year, as compared with 22 cases in January of 1942 and 16 cases in January of 1941. The increased prevalence of the disease is due, in a large measure, to overcrowding in both civilian and military populations. Thousands of young recruits are crowded together in barracks and other semipermanent structures, occupied by the armed forces in California. In the vicinity of the war industrial plants, similar overcrowded conditions exist among civilians employed in such industries. This disease is spread largely by carriers. While there are always healthy carriers in the population, it is only under greatly overcrowded conditions that epidemics of the disease occur. Fatigue is a factor in predisposition to the disease, but close contact with carriers is, without doubt, the primary factor in its spread. Meningococcic meningitis is more prevalent during colder months of the year, quite in contrast to acute epidemic poliomyelitis and encephalitis. With the appearance of warm weather, the menace of the disease becomes greatly lessened, and there is no indication at the present time that this disease constitutes a major hazard to the general population.

Treatment of this disease has been improved greatly during recent months. Heretofore, patients were treated with serum alone or with sulfonamide compounds, together with serum. Recently, however, treatment with sulfonamide compounds alone has produced far better results, and the fatality rate has been reduced greatly through this method of treatment, particularly in England and other countries where the disease has been unduly prevalent. Other sulfonamide compounds may be used, instead of sulfadiazine, including sulfathiazole, which was formerly held to be less effective.

FOUND IN VITAL STATISTICS MAIL

Dear Sir:

I just Received your letter as I wrote you that I am a Gypsie tribe. We travel to getter few of the family Gypsie are Leaveing in——. they Where there When I was Born. My Father dont know how to Read nor my mother. Please Send me a Helf of David (affidavit) So I can full in I tired to get Job Bouth they Whont my Birth Certificate So please see What you can't do for me. We Was in the Camp By the River. all the Gypsies use to Camp there I was Born there.

Answer as soon as can't

Your Trouly

MORE DIPHTHERIA CASES

The incidence of diphtheria increases at cyclic intervals and it would appear that at the present time more cases of this disease than usual are occurring. In most communities where children have been immunized against diphtheria, the disease is practically nonexistent, but in those communities where there have been great shifts in population with lack of immunization, diphtheria is taking a heavy toll. In one county of the State last month, six cases occurred, four of which were in a single family. One case was in an adult, the wife of a school janitor, and another was in a 14-month old child who died of laryngeal diphtheria. In another county, 20 cases of the disease have occurred recently, five of which were found to be clinical cases with membranes and these patients were attending school. Since many public schools are overcrowded at the present time, greater opportunities for contact are provided. In one high school of this county, built to accommodate 600 pupils, there is an enrollment of 1,600.

DIETS FOR TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS

During January, arrangements were completed for the provision of nursing and dietetic advisory services to the 36 institutions which receive the State tuberculosis subsidy of \$3 per week per patient. All of the sanatoria that have received the subsidy will be visited regularly by nutritionists employed by the State Department of Public Health to assist in improvement of dietaries served in these institutions.

FEWER MILITARY SANITATION PROJECTS

During January fewer new sanitation projects for military purposes were undertaken. Many sanitation projects involving housing in the vicinity of camps and small temporary Army concentrations have brought up many problems in sanitation. Altogether, 15 new such projects were considered. The Bureau of Sanitary Engineering discussed an interesting research project with representatives of the Navy. This involves the simple, quick-acting method of disinfecting the drinking water of the individual soldier or marine in combat areas. It is believed that this bit of research will be carried on in a number of laboratories, among which is the Water and Sewage Laboratory of the California State Department of Public Health.

Discussions relative to sewage disposal in connection with the location of 60 to 70 camps where imported Mexican labor will be concentrated were undertaken during January.

MORBIDITY***Complete Reports for Certain Diseases Recorded for Week Ending February 6, 1943****Chickenpox**

1485 cases from the following counties: Alameda 115, Butte 10, Contra Costa 43, Fresno 60, Humboldt 13, Kern 17, Lassen 7, Los Angeles 348, Madera 3, Marin 19, Mendocino 9, Modoc 15, Monterey 31, Napa 75, Orange 130, Riverside 17, Sacramento 32, San Bernardino 31, San Diego 172, San Francisco 88, San Joaquin 89, San Luis Obispo 21, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara 21, Santa Clara 24, Shasta 2, Solano 17, Sonoma 33, Sutter 3, Tulare 19, Ventura 8, Yolo 10, Yuba 2.

German Measles

446 cases from the following counties: Alameda 57, Butte 1, Fresno 7, Los Angeles 93, Marin 2, Modoc 51, Monterey 2, Orange 43, Riverside 2, Sacramento 11, San Bernardino 7, San Diego 97, San Francisco 26, San Joaquin 10, San Luis Obispo 5, Santa Clara 15, Santa Cruz 1, Solano 4, Sonoma 6, Tulare 1, Ventura 5.

Measles

372 cases from the following counties: Alameda 33, Butte 5, Contra Costa 3, Fresno 1, Humboldt 11, Inyo 1, Kern 12, Los Angeles 65, Marin 39, Modoc 66, Napa 3, Orange 4, Riverside 5, Sacramento 19, San Bernardino 8, San Diego 33, San Francisco 17, San Joaquin 13, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara 15, Solano 2, Sonoma 8, Sutter 5, Tulare 3.

Mumps

501 cases from the following counties: Alameda 35, Contra Costa 12, El Dorado 1, Fresno 13, Glenn 2, Humboldt 1, Kern 24, Lassen 1, Los Angeles 114, Marin 6, Merced 2, Modoc 7, Monterey 5, Napa 55, Orange 46, Riverside 9, Sacramento 15, San Bernardino 5, San Diego 71, San Francisco 32, San Joaquin 28, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Clara 9, Solano 2, Tulare 3, Ventura 1, Yolo 1.

Scarlet Fever

186 cases from the following counties: Alameda 14, Butte 1, Contra Costa 10, El Dorado 1, Fresno 5, Kern 8, Lassen 3, Los Angeles 66, Marin 4, Monterey 1, Napa 2, Orange 6, Riverside 1, Sacramento 6, San Bernardino 8, San Diego 14, San Francisco 15, San Joaquin 3, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara 4, Solano 1, Sonoma 1, Sutter 4, Tulare 2, Ventura 2, Yolo 2, Yuba 1.

Whooping Cough

280 cases from the following counties: Alameda 48, Colusa 4, Contra Costa 1, Fresno 2, Lassen 2, Los Angeles 117, Modoc 6, Monterey 1, Napa 4, Orange 21, Riverside 2, Sacramento 5, San Bernardino 4, San Diego 20, San Francisco 9, San Joaquin 15, San Luis Obispo 4, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara 2, Santa Cruz 1, Sonoma 2, Ventura 7, Yolo 2.

Diphtheria

21 cases from the following counties: Alameda 3, Fresno 1, Los Angeles 4, Marin 1, Napa 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 5, San Bernardino 1, Santa Clara 2, Sutter 1, Yuba 1.

Epilepsy

45 cases from the following counties: Contra Costa 1, Los Angeles 34, Orange 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 5, Solano 1, Sonoma 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

6 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 4, Sonoma 1, Yuba 1.

Influenza (Epidemic)

67 cases reported in the State.

Jaundice (Infectious)

7 cases from Madera County.

Malaria

One case from Los Angeles County.

Meningitis (Meningococcic)

24 cases from the following counties: Alameda 3, Fresno 1, Los Angeles 4, Marin 1, San Bernardino 4, San Diego 1, San Francisco 6, Solano 1, Ventura 2, Yuba 1.

Paratyphoid Fever

One case from Los Angeles County.

Pneumonia (Infectious)

86 cases reported in the State.

Poliomyelitis (Acute Anterior)

3 cases from Los Angeles County.

* Data regarding the other reportable diseases not listed herein, may be obtained upon request.

Rabies (Animal)

5 cases from Los Angeles County.

Rheumatic Fever (Acute)

3 cases from the following counties: Alameda 2, San Francisco 1.

Tetanus

One case from Los Angeles County.

Typhoid Fever

3 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 2, Tulare 1.

Undulant Fever

3 cases from Los Angeles County.

Gonorrhoea

202 cases reported in the State.

Syphilis

410 cases reported in the State.

FEWER VENEREAL DISEASE CASES

An effort is being made to determine present trends in the incidence of venereal diseases throughout California, in order to measure the effectiveness of the control program now in effect. Since military strength is a war secret, and because of the shifting civilian population, it is quite impossible to figure rates of infection with any degree of accuracy. Representatives of the Army and Navy, however, provide assurance that venereal disease rates among the armed forces in California are satisfactory and at the present time decreasing. Since venereal disease rates in the military frequently constitute an indication of civilian rates, it may be assumed that the venereal disease control program in California is producing satisfactory results. Recorded cases bear this out.

Case reports indicate that a grand total of more than 25,000 cases of syphilis were reported in Californians last year. Some of these cases include those among the military personnel contracted in other States. Almost 20,000 cases of gonorrhea were also reported. These figures provide a fair indication of the numbers of cases of these diseases that were reported in Californians last year. This represents a slight increase over the number of cases reported in 1941, due, no doubt, to the discovery of latent and late infections among men in the older age groups examined for Selective Service.

Guy P. Jones
659 Phelan Bldg.
760 Market Street
San Francisco, California

